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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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2. The prices demanded by the Yugoslavs at a recent meeting in Belgrade for lead, zinc, copper, iron ore, pyrites and chrome ore were well above world market prices and the Yugoslavs attempted, unsuccessfully, to make them acceptable on political grounds. It also became evident that the Yugoslav Delegation was badly informed, lacked the specialized knowledge necessary for conducting such negotiations and appeared to consist mainly of men who owed their positions to political influence.

3. At a later meeting in Prague, however, purchases of iron and chrome ore, pyrites, copper cathodes, lead and zinc were made, but the quantities available cover only a small part of the total required.

4. Poland is ready to supply zinc, but originally stipulated that the Czechs should take delivery of half the quantity in sheet form. This offer was refused as its acceptance would have required the closing down of part of Czechoslovakia's rolling capacity. It was eventually agreed, however, that Poland should deliver 4,500 tons during 1947.

5. Czechoslovakia requires some 2,500 tons of zinc per month, when working to capacity, but since only 70% of total capacity is at present operating, the monthly requirements are approximately 1,700 tons. The 4,500 tons to be supplied by Poland, therefore, leaves a considerable gap to be covered from other sources.

6. Poland is also ready to deliver coal to Czechoslovakia, but it appears that prices and quantities have not yet been agreed upon.

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